

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00572 021312Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-03 /044 W

-----030633 111924 /17

R 021211Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5111

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0572

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GY

SUBJ: VAGARIES OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION: THE GEORGETOWN/
LUSAKA/WASHINGTON CHANNEL

REF: GEORGETOWN 0424

1. THE FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND TO THE DISCUSSION
WHICH WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERATING REFTEL.
IT IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR ADDRESSEES' INTEREST AND
POSSIBLE AMUSEMENT. WE SEE NO PROFIT FROM FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH THE GOVT OF GUYANA.

2. FOLLOWING THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING
IN LUSAKA, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT
WITH THE ACTING GHANAIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DISCUSS
THE MEETING. UNAWARE OF THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT
OF A GHANAIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA, THE EMBASSY
TELEPHONE OPERATOR INSTEAD MADE THE APPOINTMENT WITH
THE GUYANAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WITHOUT TELLING THE
AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE. THE AMBASSADOR DISCOVERED THE
MISTAKE ON ARRIVAL AT THE GHANAIAN HIGH COMMISSION
WHERE HE ENCOUNTERED A SURPRISED COMMISSIONER IN
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DEEP CONVERSATION WITH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR.
RETURNING TO THE EMBASSY, THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR
EXPLAINED WITH WHOM HE HAD MADE THE APPOINTMENT AND
THE AMBASSADOR HASTENED TO THE GUYANAN HIGH COMMISSION
IN ORDER NOT TO OFFEND THE WAITING COMMISSIONER.

2. THE GUYANAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD JUST RETURNED

TO LUSAKA AND HAD NOT FOLLOWED THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS. TO PASS THE TIME, THEREFORE, AND SAVE EMBARRASSMENT, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF US-GUYANAN RELATIONS WHICH OF COURSE HE HAD FOLLOWED IN THE COURSE OF HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT.

3. COMMENT: GUYANAN HIGH COMMISSIONER GRANT IS A PERSONABLE FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO IS INCLINED TO THEORIZIZE WHEN HE IS NOT POINTIFICATING. HAVING LITTLE ELSE TO DO, WE SURMISE THAT HE CHOSE TO INTERPRET THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL AS A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A NEW, IF INDIRECT, CHANNEL BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND WASHINGTON. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE AMBASSADOR CONSIDERED THE DISCUSSION OF SUCH SUBSTANTIVE MERIT THAT NEITHER MEMCON NOR NOTE WAS TAKEN AND NO MESSAGE PREPARED FOR WASHINGTON. LOW

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Message Attributes

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